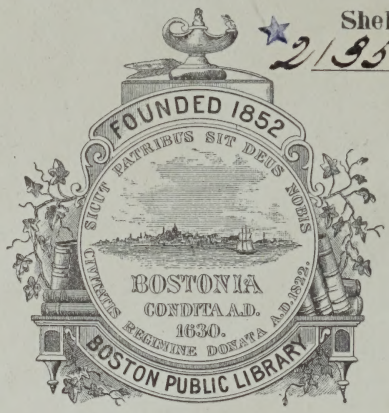
Shelf No
2195.62



Jan. 16. 1894

Charlestown

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REPORT

Of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Instruction

CONCERNING A

Public Library.

The Joint Standing Committee on Public Instruction, to whom was referred the communications of Hon. G. Washington Warren, James Hunnewell, Esq., and the petition of James Hunnewell and others, relating to the establishment of a public library, have considered the same and report:

The Committee unanimously concur in the views expressed in these communications, as to the value of a public library and the expediency of establishing one in this city. In aid of this object, Hon. G. Washington Warren has tendered the sum of five hundred dollars, subject to the condition that it is to be paid whenever the City Council "by ordinance or resolve" shall set apart "the lower story of the High School

building for a public library; and James Hunnewell, Esq., has tendered the sum of fifteen hundred dollars: one-third of it, to wit, five hundred dollars, to be paid whenever it is needed to purchase books: one-third to be paid in one year from the payment of the first instalment, and the remaining third to be paid in ten annual instalments of fifty dollars each, to commence in one year from the payment of the second instalment; and the conditions annexed to this offer are, that the city shall provide a suitable location for a library; shall never part with the books; and shall keep them insured. In a subsequent communication, Mr. Hunnewell remonstrates against the location of the proposed library in the High School building.

When these sums, so liberally tendered, shall be received by the city, there will be at its disposal the first year, fifteen hundred dollars. This amount, however, would go but a small way towards the purchase of a suitable library for the public; and in view of this, the Committee recommend that the City Council appropriate, in aid of the same object, the sum of One Thousand Dollars. Though then the means to purchase books would be small, yet it is reasonable to suppose that so praiseworthy an object would meet favor with our citizens; and that further donations, of money and books, would materially increase the Library when it has been once established and the community are assured as to the basis of its foundation.

The Committee, therefore, deem it expedient to establish a Public Library. In order that it may

command general confidence and be under intelligent management, they recommend the adoption of the Ordinance herewith reported. It creates a Board of Trustees, and commits to it the control of the library, subject to such conditions as the city may from time to time prescribe, as to the amount of the expenditure, and to the general injunction to adopt such measures, as to its use, as shall extend its benefits as widely as it is practicable throughout the community.

The location of this library has been the main difficulty the Committee has had to encounter. The views expressed in the communication of Mr. Hunnewell as to the selection of the High School building, have been re-iterated from other quarters; and they are not prepared to recommend this as the permanent location. Nor is there any public building in the city which will allow the accommodations proper and requisite for such an institution. To collect a library and arrange it for use will require time, and the Committee Room of the Common Council, which is not now used, might answer as a temporary place of deposit in which to receive books. At a small expense shelves can be put up in it that would hold three or four thousand volumes; and until an appropriate location can be decided upon, the Committee recommend that this room be appropriated for this purpose; and they further recommend that the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated to fit it with shelves.

The adoption of the Ordinance will serve to indicate to the citizens the foundation on which this insti-

tution will rest, and the place of deposit can be opened immediately for the reception of such donations as their liberality may proffer. The duties of the Librarian, until the regulations for the public use of the library are completed, will not be large, and to compensate for them, the Committee recommend that a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars be placed, for this purpose, in the hands of the Trustees of the library.

Unanimously submitted by the Committee.

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, Jr., Chairman.

City of Charlestown, April 11, 1853.

City of Charlestown.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-three.

An Ordinance,

TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN.

Be it Ordained *by the City Council of the City of Charlestown, as follows:*

Sect. 1. There shall be chosen annually in the month of May, by concurrent vote of the two branches of the City Council, one member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, one member of the Common Council, and five citizens at large, to constitute a Board of Trustees for the Public Library, who shall hold their offices until others are chosen in their places; and any vacancy in said Board shall be filled immediately, as aforesaid.

Sect. 2. The persons so chosen shall meet and organize themselves into a Board by the choice of one of their number as President; and they may make such rules and regulations for their own government and in relation to subordinate officers by them appointed, as they may deem expedient.

1 Sect. 3. The said Trustees shall have the gen-
2 eral care and control of the Public Library and of
3 the expenditure of all monies appropriated there-
4 fore; they may make such rules and regulations in
5 relation to the same and may appoint such subor-
6 dinate officers, as they may consider necessary and
7 expedient, and may fix their compensation, pro-
8 vided that the same shall not exceed in the whole
9 the sum appropriated therefor by the City Council.
10 But the provisions mentioned in this section shall
11 at all times be subject to any limitations or restric-
12 tions by the City Council.

1 Sect. 4. The said Trustees on or before the 15th
2 of December annually, shall present to the City
3 Council a report, containing a statement of the
4 condition of the Library, the number of books that
5 have been added during the past year, with an
6 account of all receipts and expenditures, together
7 with such information or suggestions as they may
8 deem important.

1 Sect. 5. There shall be chosen annually in
2 the month of May, and whenever a vacancy
3 occurs, by concurrent vote of the two branches of
4 the City Council, a Librarian for the City Library,
5 who shall be a citizen of Charlestown, and who
6 shall hold his office until a successor is appointed,
7 or he is removed. He shall be removable at the
8 pleasure of the City Council, and shall receive such
9 compensation as the Council may determine.

1 Sect. 6. The Librarian shall have the immediate
2 care and custody of the Public Library; he shall
3 perform any and all of the services in relation to
4 the same, and shall obey all rules that may be
5 prescribed by the said Trustees, and he shall act
6 as their Secretary, and shall keep full and accurate
7 records of all their doings as a Board.

1 Sect. 7. No payment of money shall be made
2 on account of the Library, except by order of the
3 Board and in pursuance of a warrant signed by
4 the President.

1 Sect. 8. A letter of acknowledgment signed by
2 the President, and countersigned by the Librarian,
3 shall be promptly returned to each person making
4 a donation to the Library.

1 Sect. 9. In prescribing the regulations relative
2 to the care and use of the books, it shall be the
3 duty of the Trustees to adopt such measures as
4 shall extend the benefits of the institution as widely
5 as practicable throughout the community.

De Costa & Williams.. ...Advertiser Press.